

Friday, January 15, 1847.

Messrs. Mason & Tuttle, 38 William street, Merchants' Exchange, New York, are our authorized agents, for this paper, in that city.

A FEW MORE OF THE SAME SORT WANTED.

We have just been informed that Captain Price, who has for some days past been exerting himself to make up the compliment of his Company in this place, still requires a few more names to fill up the ranks to the requisite number. We appeal to the citizens of New Hanover County to step forward immediately, and second the gallant Captain. He only requires a few, and it is desirable that they should be made up immediately, in order that the Company may be regularly organized. We would invite those in the adjoining counties who may be willing to aid the country in conquering an honorable peace from Mexico, to come to Wilmington immediately and enroll their names under Captain Price. We need scarcely say a word to our readers in commendation of Dr. Price. He is known to most of them, and it is admitted on all hands that he possesses every requisite necessary to make him one of the best officers who will be mustered into the service. He wants but a few to make up his Company, and we appeal to the patriotic young men of the surrounding counties, and ask them if they will not step forward and enroll themselves under the banner of our common country. Now is the time. The eyes of the whole Union are upon North Carolina, wondering why she is so backward. Every other State that was called upon at the same time has made up her regiment some time since. Will North Carolina be the only State which will fail to answer the call of the country? We cannot believe it. We know the Regiment will soon be made up. Come on, then, and aid Captain Price in making up his Company.

VOLUNTEERS ARRIVED.
We noticed, in a Postscript in our last week's paper, the arrival of the Edgecombe Volunteers. We were in error in putting down the number at 156. We have since learned that they only numbered 137; but some more have arrived since, and there is no doubt but there will be two Companies from that county.

The first Edgecombe Company has been mustered into service as Company B., with the following officers: Lewis D. Wilson, Captain; Josiah S. Pender, 1st Lieutenant; Wm. H. Moye, and O. N. Burk, 2d do. The second Company is nearly full, and has been organized under the following officers: W. S. Dugan, Captain; S. H. Moye, 1st Lieutenant; and William McKerral, and Benjamin Staton, 2d do. This Company lacks only a few more to make up its rank and file. There is no doubt that it will be full in a day or two.

On Monday last, the Wayne Volunteers arrived. This Company has not all arrived. The Cars started at so early an hour, that some few were left, a part of whom have since arrived, and the remainder will be here in a day or two. The officers of the Wayne Company are as follows: Henry Roberts, Captain; John N. Andrews, 1st Lieutenant; and Spier Singleton, and Zedoc Thompson, 2d do.

The New Hanover Company is fast filling up its ranks, and we have no doubt but that it will be full in a few days. Its officers are: William J. Price, Captain; and William B. Plummer, and John C. McRae, Jr., Lieutenants. All these Volunteers have been mustered into the United States' service, by Lieutenant Fremont, and have proceeded to the United States' Quarters, at Smithville, where, for the time being, they are remaining.

We suppose, that ere long, they will regularly go into Camp, as the schr. R. W. Brown arrived at this place on Sunday last, with the Camp equipage, consisting of tents, knapsacks, &c.

THE NORTH CAROLINA REGIMENT.

We now feel certain that the Regiment will be made up in the course of a very short time. The Fayetteville Observer of Wednesday last says: "The Company in this place is not full, but we learn that on Saturday last they proceeded to organize, by electing William E. Kirkpatrick, Captain; Thomas Dunham, 1st Lieutenant; and J. D. Beatty, Jr., and William M. Hartman, 2d Lieutenants."

A town meeting has been called on the same subject.

In Orange county, says the Observer, between forty and fifty names have been enrolled.

In Wake county, Col. John H. Manly is endeavoring to make up a Company, and we have no doubt but that he will succeed.

The Salisbury Watchman, of the 8th inst., says, that it learns that a Company has been made up in Mecklenburg county, and that another had been formed in Cabarrus. The same paper says that "there is a strong probability that a Company has been formed in Caswell." At the latest accounts, forty-one men had enrolled their names.

P. S.—Since writing the above we have seen a letter from the Executive Office of the State, addressed to Lieut. Fremont, and received here on Wednesday, stating that 5 Companies had been reported and accepted by the Governor, viz:—Rowan, Edgecombe, Wayne, Calhoun, and Yancey. The letter also states that intelligence had been received at the Executive Office, but not official, to the effect that a Company had been made up in Mecklenburg. His Excellency also expresses the opinion in his letter that the Regiment will be made up in two weeks from the time at which he writes, (Monday.) The letter also states that about half the Regiment will rendezvous at Charlotte and the other half at this place.

Q.—We almost feel certain that by our next publication we will be able to announce the completion of the Regiment.—Ed.

MASSACHUSETTS READY.—We learn that the Regiment of Volunteers has been completed in Massachusetts. So that now North Carolina is the only State that has thus far failed to meet the requisition. We earnestly trust, that by next paper, we will have the pleasure of heading a paragraph thus:—**NORTH CAROLINA READY.**

STATE DEBTS.—The debt of Pennsylvania, on the 1st of last December, was \$40,789,577.09. That of New York, on the 30th of September last, \$24,734,080.95, and the funded debt of Kentucky was, on the 10th of October last, \$1,506,026.

The weather has again become mild, and we should think, from appearances, that it would continue for some time.

FIELD OFFICERS.

Well, we do really wish that the Legislature of the State would come to some definite action on the *modus operandi* of appointing Field Officers for the Regiment of North Carolina Volunteers. We are heartily sick and tired of the indecisive and dilatory course which the Legislature has pursued in this matter. It has been a great obstacle in the way of raising the Regiment in this State. If the Volunteers knew, either who were to be their Field Officers, or if they knew how they were to be appointed, we have no doubt there would be much more alacrity in volunteering. And if the appropriation of \$10,000 had been made in the right spirit, and weeks ago, it would have forwarded very much the same desirable end. Why cannot the State of North Carolina behave in the same patriotic manner that her sister States have? Unfortunately, we have a Whig Legislature, which throws every obstacle in the way of raising the regiment. Had a liberal appropriation been made at an early day, and had it been placed in proper hands, there is no doubt but that the Regiment would, ere this, have been made up. We feel ashamed at the course which the Legislature of North Carolina has pursued in this matter. But we suppose that the damage is done, ere this, and that we must do the best, under the circumstances, we can.

LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

A good deal has been said about the recommendation which Mr. Polk has made to Congress of the appointment of a "General Officer," to take charge of our whole force of all arms during the war. If we understand it, the object for which this office is to be created, if created at all, is for the purpose of having some man of eminent abilities who will be intrusted with the conduct of the whole of our forces during the war, and to whom will be delegated plenary powers, by the Government at Washington, to act in all emergencies. Such an officer, we have no doubt, would much facilitate the operations of the army, especially as it is so far distant from the seat of our government. If we understand the matter, such an officer would be endowed with such powers as would enable him to decide and determine many matters which now require a reference to the fountain head. The House of Representatives, in the first instance, gave the go-by to the President's recommendation. But that body has since reconsidered the matter.

MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.

On Tuesday last, W. B. Lloyd, Esq., agent of the Company which is about to be formed for the construction of a line of Telegraphic wires from Petersburg, Va., to New Orleans, called at our Office. Mr. Lloyd informed us that he was direct from Raleigh, where he had obtained a charter from the Legislature to carry the wires through Raleigh. On asking him, why not through this place, he informed us that the idea was to pursue the great Rail Road line, and that he had been informed by the Raleigh folks that the Metropolitan route would undoubtedly be built before ours. Those Raleigh folks are a tough set of chaps, any how. Besides, Mr. Lloyd said that it was a leading idea with the projectors of the scheme to carry a line of wires through the Capitals of the States. He told us, however, that Wilmington would certainly have a wire—that its commercial importance, (of which he was ignorant until he came here,) would certainly ensure it a line—that he thought the best idea would be to run the line along the Gaston Road to Raleigh, thence to Goldsboro, and thence along our Road to this place. This, we think, would be a good idea. Mr. Lloyd informed us that it was calculated that \$175,000 would construct the whole line through, including offices, implements of operation, &c. He says that the work will be commenced in the course of the Spring.

It is really too bad that the mail from Raleigh should fail at a time when we are so anxious to know what is going on there, but such is the case. We have received no papers from that place since Saturday last. What is the matter? From such means as are in our power, we make up the following summary of the proceedings of the Legislature since our last report.

Last week was one of the most exciting ones which has occurred since the commencement of the session. The preamble and resolution from the Senate appropriating \$10,000 for the use of the Volunteers, was taken up in the House on Thursday last, and debated until Saturday night, without coming to any final action. Our readers are aware that the preamble asserts that the war was caused "by the action of the Executive." This every Democrat knows to be false—but the Federalists have a majority, and it seems that they are determined to make the Democrats either vote against the appropriation or vote for it "in *lieu*." During the debate several attempts were made to amend the preamble, as well as to divide the question, but all in vain. The Federal majority are inexorable, and we suppose that, ere this, the resolution has passed in its obnoxious form, under the gloomy protest, however, of the Democratic members, against the preamble.

On the 4th inst., in the Senate, the bill authorizing the Commissioners of the town of Wilmington to borrow \$200,000, passed its third reading. Of its fate in the House we are not yet advised.

The bill to re-organize the Raleigh & Gaston Rail Road was taken up in the Senate on Saturday last and read the second time. The bill to authorize the Petersburg Rail Road Company to increase its capital stock and subscribe \$500,000 in the Rail Roads of this State, passed its third reading in the Senate on Friday last.

At last accounts in our possession, the bill for the appointment of the Field Officers for the Regiment of Volunteers had not been acted upon. We very much regret the failure of our papers from Raleigh, but we cannot help it.

Q.—On the evening of the 16th December, the prize schooner Union, under command of Lieut. John A. Winslow, was stranded on the reefs near Green Island, and driven high on the rocks by a gale which set in directly afterwards. Her crew was taken off by the boats of the John Adams, and the schooner soon after was discovered to be on fire. Total loss.

Q.—Judge PENNYBAKER, one of the Senators from Virginia, was lying dangerously ill at his lodgings, at last accounts from Washington City.

CONGRESS.

In articles which will be found in other portions of this week's paper, we have noticed some of the most interesting matters before Congress. On Saturday last, in the House of Representatives, the bill for the increase of the regular Army by the raising of a Regiment of Dragoons and nine Regiments of Infantry, underwent its final discussion. On that day the debate was terminated, in Committee of the Whole, at the hour of 2 o'clock, p. m., and the Committee proceeded to vote upon the various amendments, in which they were engaged to a late hour, when it rose and reported progress to the House. The House adjourned without taking the final vote. On Monday the bill was again taken up, and after some discussion and the introduction of sundry amendments, it was finally passed. The following are the principal provisions of the bill as it finally passed the House, by a vote of yeas 176, nays 24.

Sec. 1. Provides for the raising of one Regiment of Dragoons and nine Regiments of Infantry, to serve during the war with Mexico. It also provides that the President may appoint, by and with the advice of the Senate, such of the commissioned officers authorized by this act as shall not be appointed during this session of Congress.

Sec. 2. Provides that the term of service shall be during the war, unless sooner discharged.

Sec. 3. Authorizes the President, with the advice of the Senate, to appoint one additional Major for each Regiment of Dragoons, Artillery, Infantry, and Riflemen in the Army, who shall be taken from the Captains of the Army.

Sec. 4. Provides that to each of the Regiments mentioned above there shall be allowed a Regimental Quartermaster, to be taken from the subalterns of the line, and who shall be allowed ten dollars a month additional pay, and forage for two horses.

Sec. 5. Provides that the officers, musicians and privates, authorized by this act shall be discharged at the close of the war.

An amendment was offered to this bill on Saturday, providing for the appointment of a Lieutenant General, which was adopted in Committee of the Whole, but rejected in the House. Indeed, we think there is an indisposition on the part of the House of Representatives to create such an office. We presume Congress does not think it necessary.

During the debate on Saturday, in Committee of the Whole, in the House of Representatives, Mr. Haralson, in speaking of the comparative expedition with which troops could be raised by recruiting or by calling for volunteers, observed that of the nine States upon whom a requisition for a Regiment each had been made, more than two months ago, two had not yet answered that call, to wit, Massachusetts and North Carolina.

Mr. Barringer begged Mr. Haralson to yield the floor, when he stated that when the call was made on North Carolina in May last, about forty Companies had tendered their services—that the reason why the recent call had not been so promptly answered, was the great change in the term of service—the first being for one year, and the latter during the war.

In reply to this, Mr. Reid, to whom Mr. Haralson also yielded the floor, replied that he also regretted that the troops had not been raised. He also regretted that the Whig Governor of N. Carolina had declared in his message that the war was unconstitutional, and waged by the Executive. That, he thought, had done more to retard the raising of troops in N. Carolina, than any thing else.

In the Senate, on Monday last, a rather singular discussion arose. Mr. Dallas, the Vice President, was unwell on that day, and therefore unable to attend the Senate. Mr. Atchison took the chair, and read a letter from the Vice President, authorizing him (Mr. A.) to act as President of the Senate *pro tem*. During his (the Vice President's) absence, Mr. Crittenden thought that the Vice President had no right to appoint any one to preside in his absence, and moved that the Senate now proceed to the election or appointment of a President *pro tem*. This gave rise to quite a protracted discussion upon the right of the Vice President to make such an appointment. At last the Senate determined to settle the question, and then proceeded to appoint a President *pro tem*. Mr. Atchison, of course, was unanimously chosen.

In the House, on Monday, the bill reported from the Committee on Territories, for the organization of a Territorial Government in Oregon, was taken up, and is now before the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

In the House of Representatives, on Monday last, Gen. McKay, from the Committee of Ways and Means, reported two very important Bills. The first, the general appropriation bill, as it is called, making appropriations for the "civil and diplomatic expenses of government for the year ending 30th June, 1848." The second, a bill authorizing the President to issue Treasury Notes in sums not less than fifty dollars, or if he deems it more advisable, to make a loan, to the amount of twenty-three millions of dollars. These are very important bills, and we trust that they will meet with the early attention of Congress. They were both referred to the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union.

WAYS AND MEANS.—The *Washington Union* of Monday night last says, that it learns that the Finance Committee will, in the course of a few days, report a bill, authorizing a loan of twenty old millions of dollars, as well as also a bill for the increase of the revenue, to meet the increased expenditures incurred by the war. We trust that both these measures, indeed, we will not permit ourselves to doubt but that they will meet with the cordial support of the House of Representatives. And we trust that the question of slavery will be kept out of the debate entirely. It is surely an improper time for such a discussion. We have every confidence in the wisdom and patriotism of the House of Representatives, and therefore will leave the action on these great measures with a full reliance that all will be well.

Q.—The Editor of the Farmer's Journal, published at Salisbury, Rowan county, says that he is able to publish his paper only once a fortnight, as his only aid has volunteered in the Rowan Company of Volunteers.

Patriotism.—The editor of the Winchester Virginian asks the indulgence of his readers for the small amount of reading matter in his paper. His excuse is that his hands have all volunteered in Captain Rowan's company.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE ARMY.

During the past week rumors of the most important and interesting nature have been daily reaching this point from our army in Mexico. The first was that Gen. Worth, who is in command at Saltillo with a force of about 1800 men, had sent an express to Gen. Taylor, communicating the startling intelligence that Santa Anna was advancing upon Saltillo with an army of 25,000 men, and that he was within three days march of that place, and requesting reinforcements to be pushed forward as speedily as possible, for that he (Worth) was determined to hold his ground at Saltillo. The express arrived at Monterey the day after Gen. Taylor had left that place, on his way to Victoria; that Gen. Taylor immediately retraced his steps, and had ordered all the troops that could possibly be raised along the banks of the Rio Grande to proceed by forced marches to the threatened point. It was also rumored that Gen. Wool, with his division, then at Parras, was cut off from any communication with either Generals Taylor or Worth. Indeed, the whole story were quite a probable appearance. For if Santa Anna had the large number of troops under his command which it was generally supposed he had, and if he was anything of the military leader which the world generally gives him credit for, it was very probable that he would fall, with overwhelming numbers, upon Gen. Worth, who occupied, with a comparatively small force, the advance post of Saltillo. There is no doubt but that Gen. Worth was convinced that Santa Anna was advancing upon him, and that, consequently, he had dispatched an express to Gen. Taylor for succor. The New Orleans Picayune, of the 7th inst., gives us the latest intelligence upon the subject. The steamship Alabama had just arrived from the Brazos Santiago, bringing dates from that port up to the 3d inst., and from Matamoros up to the 1st inst. From this arrival, and the intelligence which it brings, we are led to believe that the rumors were entirely unfounded of Santa Anna's advancing upon Saltillo, or that that crafty chieftain has only made a feint for the purpose of making a descent, if we may use the expression, upon some other point. At any rate, from the information now before us, we cannot believe that he has actually advanced upon Gen. Worth, and that, ere this, a decisive action has been fought. The New Orleans Picayune, of the 7th inst., contains the arrival of the Alabama and two letters from its correspondents, one dated December 26th, and the other Matamoros, 1st January, 1847. Commenting upon the contents of these letters, the Picayune holds the following language:

"No news of especial interest had arrived from Saltillo, from which we infer that the danger of an attack upon that place was not as imminent as was supposed when General Worth's express was despatched. Too much vigilance, however, is a good fault in a soldier. Rumors of battle were still circulated at the Brazos—some to the effect that General Wool had been cut off, that Gen. Worth had been driven upon Monterey, &c., but little confidence was placed in them."

We have read the letters published in the Picayune, and we give that one written from Matamoros, because it is the latest, and conveys the most important intelligence. On the whole, we think that Santa Anna has not attempted an attack upon Saltillo—that if he has, Gen. Taylor was there with a sufficient force to make him pay dearly for his temerity. We, for one, have no apprehensions for the fate of the gallant Worth. We feel confident he is safe. The following is the letter alluded to:—

MATAMOROS, Jan. 1st, 1847.
Your friend Haile popped in upon us a few days ago, and I had time to ask him a question before he was off for Camargo and Monterey. Since that time we have had many reports of battles, and marches, and counter marches—Gen. Wool's column cut off, Gen. Worth driven back upon Monterey from Saltillo, and he and Gen. Taylor surrounded and shut up in Monterey. Gen. Scott and staff left here two days ago, in haste for Camargo, by the river. They met the "Rough and Ready" steamer with the mail, which brings intelligence that some part of a corps of observation belonging to Santa Anna's army has been seen near Parras, where General Wool's army was, and he joined Gen. Worth at Saltillo. Gen. Taylor, with the division of Gen. Twiggs, had gone back to Monterey, and Gen. Quitman had gone over to Victoria, and was at Lavaca when last heard from. Gen. Patterson's division crossed the river San Fernando five days ago, and would soon reach his destination. A company of Tennessee cavalry came back two days ago, to escort a train of wagons with subsistence for the command of Gen. Patterson, who will no doubt soon join with the command of Gen. Quitman.

Gen. Scott will go to Camargo, and it is thought will soon return here. I have very little doubt but that Gen. Taylor will go home as soon as Gen. Scott takes command. When Gen. Patterson gets to Victoria all the passes to San Luis Potosi will be shut up; and if Urrea, with his 5,000 or 6,000 lancers, does not clear out across the mountains, our cavalry will chase them about like rabbits pursued by a pack of hounds. What do you think of that? "Honor and glory," and all that. The thing is impossible. With such a name, he cannot rise; it is a wonder how he can live.

Adios, COMPANERO.

P. S.—Since writing the above, we have received the *Washington Union* of Monday night last, containing the following, which would go to confirm the opinion which we have expressed above, that the rumors about Gen. Worth's being attacked, &c., are more startling than dangerous:—

Extract of a letter from Gen. Jesup, to the Quartermaster's Department, in this city, dated

BRAZOS, SAN JAGO, Dec. 25, 1846.
"We have a report that Santa Anna is advancing on Gen. Worth, and that he is falling back; but I do not credit it. Santa Anna would hardly follow Gen. Worth with Gen. Wool on his flank. I consider the story as mere gossip."

A subsequent letter was received from Gen. Jesup, on the day after, viz: on the 26th ult., which is perfectly silent about these rumors.

Q.—We take the following from the letter of the Union's New York correspondent, who writes to that paper under date of the 9th inst. We are also in a "predicament" to know who Presley Spruance is:—

"Presley Spruance, it seems, has been elected United States senator from Delaware, vice Thomas Clayton. Presley Spruance!"

"Phibius what a name. To fill the speaking trumpet of future fame? Who is he? Where did he come from?—Who ever heard of any body with such a name? What does he propose to himself in going into the United States Senate? 'Honor and glory,' and all that. The thing is impossible. With such a name, he cannot rise; it is a wonder how he can live."

A Curiosity.—Two teeth from the mouth of the Mississippi river.

FROM MEXICO.

Most of our readers are aware that the Mexican Congress was to convene at the City of Mexico, on the 5th of the last month, and that a good deal of anxiety and interest was entertained & expressed, to know what course that august body would pursue with regard to the existing war, and the overtures of peace which have been made by our Government. The recent intelligence from that quarter, is rather contradictory. A letter published in the N. O. Picayune of the 3d inst., says that the writer has dates from the City of Mexico up to the 16th of December; and that the Mexican Congress had decided against peace, and for the continuance of the war whilst the foot of an American soldier was found upon the soil of the republic. Another account, in the same paper, of a later date, would seem to indicate that the Mexican Congress was inclined to peace. That body had organized and appointed its various Committees. The men appointed on the various Committees are known to be disposed to peace. For instance, ex-President Herrera is Chairman of the Committee on War and the Navy; and Rejon is Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations. Both of these men are known to be disposed to peace measures. In the course of a few days, we will hear something definite.

THE SINEWS OF WAR.

It seems to us, that the United States are placed in rather an awkward predicament by the recent action of the House of Representatives. We are in the midst of a war with Mexico. Our troops have already advanced far into the interior of the country; and it is admitted, upon all hands, that the war must now be continued, until Mexico evinces a disposition to accede to our overtures for peace. For we suppose that there is no man in the country, who would desire or wish to see our troops withdrawn from the territory of Mexico under existing circumstances. We cannot now retreat without covering ourselves with eternal disgrace. Even those who are of the opinion that the war was unnecessarily entered into, must admit, that we have gone so far that we cannot now pause or retreat.

From the very force of circumstances, we must now prosecute the war till peace is concluded in some shape or form. In this view of things, Mr. Polk calls upon Congress for the means to carry on the war with vigor, in order to terminate it as soon as possible. He asks the "Sinews of War," and unless Congress grants them, we do not see what is to be done. He recommends that the free list, that is, those articles which, under the present tariff, (act of '46), are admitted free of duty, shall be taken up, and such of them as will best bear the burden, shall be taxed. And this he recommends as a war measure only. He also recommends that a loan of twenty-three millions of dollars shall be authorized by Congress, for the purpose of meeting the extraordinary expenses of Government incurred by the war; and Mr. Walker, the Secretary of the Treasury, says expressly, that it will be necessary to impose a tax upon some articles in the free list—particularly on tea and coffee—in order to negotiate the proposed loan on advantageous terms. In view of this state of the country and its finances, what is the course which the House of Representatives pursues? Why, in the first place, Mr. Wentworth, a leading member from the West, introduces a resolution to the effect that it is inexpedient to impose a duty on tea and coffee; which resolution is adopted by a large majority. Again, the Executive recommends an increase in the regular army to the amount of ten new regiments; and a bill is introduced for the purpose, from the Committee on Military Affairs, which gives rise to a discussion covering about a fortnight; thus delaying the organization of this new force, which is absolutely necessary. Is this not a pretty predicament in which the government is placed? What is to be done? Will the present Congress refuse to grant the proper supplies to carry on the war? We feel confident that the nine-tenths of the citizens of the Republic are willing and ready to pay any amount of taxes necessary for the vigorous prosecution of the war; and it does seem to us, that a duty laid upon the free list, during the war, is the most appropriate plan which can be adopted. But it is inexpedient to tax tea and coffee! Why should these articles not be taxed, especially as a war measure? Are they not as proper subjects for taxation as sugar, molasses, and salt? Surely they are. Really we must confess that the Democratic party in Congress does not pull together as we think it ought in justice to itself and in justice to Mr. Polk's administration. We do hope and trust that a better state of feeling will be brought about, and that the National Legislature will second the Executive in vigorous measures for the speedy and honorable termination of the present war. The whole country is now looking to Congress, and we earnestly trust that it will not be disappointed. One thing is certain, the Administration has thus far boldly and vigorously performed its duty in the matter, and should the war now languish, or should disasters overtake (which Heaven forbid) our gallant army now in the enemy's country, the fault will lie at the door of Congress, and not with Mr. Polk or his cabinet. But we will hope for the best. We cannot but believe that our friends in Congress will see the evils which are impending over their heads, should they fail to act up to their whole duty in the present crisis.

THE RECRUITING SERVICE.
The Adjutant General submitted to the Secretary of War, on Friday last, a communication containing a statement of the number of Recruits which had been enlisted for the Regular Army, during one year ending on the 30th September last. We make the following extract:—

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, Washington, January 7, 1847.
Statement showing the number of recruits enlisted in the regular army during the year commencing October 1, 1845, and ending September 30, 1846:—

Regiment.	2,571
Two regiments of dragoons.	2,571
The regiment of mounted riflemen.	1,045
Four regiments of artillery.	1,045
Eight regiments of infantry.	1,045
Sappers and miners, and detachments.	106
Total number of enlistments for the term of five years, made in the regular army during the year ending Sept. 30, 1846.	5,945

The number of enlistments made in the regular army during the months of October, November, and December, 1846, so far as returns have been received, is 2,573. This number will probably be increased, when all the returns are in.

Total number enlisted from Oct. 1, 1845, to Dec. 31, 1846. The number of enlistments made during the year ending Sept. 30, 1846, exceeded the number made the previous year by 2,388.

In another portion of the communication, the Adj. General gives it as his opinion, that any given number of troops can be raised and sent forward with as much, if not greater, expedition by recruiting for the regular service than by a requisition for volunteers, provided the terms held out to both are the same.

any given number of troops can be raised and sent forward with as much, if not greater, expedition by recruiting for the regular service than by a requisition for volunteers, provided the terms held out to both are the same.

THE GREAT QUESTION.

As a Democrat, as a lover of our country, and as a Southern man, there is much in the recent proceedings of the House of Representatives at which we are chagrined, and which fills our mind with no pleasing forebodings for the future destinies of the Union. On the 4th inst., Mr. Preston King, of New York, moved a postponement of the special order of the day for the purpose of introducing a bill for the purpose of placing at the disposal of the President the sum of \$30,000, to be used, if necessary, in negotiating a peace with Mexico; and also the further sum of two millions of dollars also for the purpose of enabling the Executive, should the contingency arrive, in the recess of Congress, to conclude a treaty of peace with that republic. The latter large sum to be placed at the disposal of the President for the purpose, should it be required, of adjusting the question of future boundary between the United States and Mexico. It is admitted, we believe, on all hands, that whenever a peace is concluded, the only means which Mexico will possibly have in her power for indemnifying us for the expenses of the war, as well as for the wrongs which she has done to us antecedent to the breaking out of hostilities, will be the cession of territory, and that in arranging this latter question, the Executive may want a large sum of money; and hence the clause of the bill placing at his disposal two millions of dollars. But that portion of this bill, to which we wish to call special attention, and on which we deem it our duty to make a few remarks, is contained in the second section, which provides that slavery shall be forever excluded from any territory which hereafter shall be acquired or annexed by the United States. This clause is expressly tacked on to this bill making appropriations for the purpose of facilitating the conclusion of a treaty of Peace, should Mexico be so disposed. It is true, that the House, by a vote of 89 yeas against 88 yeas, refused to suspend the rule so as to take the bill under consideration. Still, however, it is the opening wedge in a controversy, which we fear, at no distant day, is to convulse the Union to its centre, if the patriotism and good sense of the American people does not frown it down. In all human probability, the United States will acquire a large amount of territory, whenever a treaty of peace is concluded. For how else is Mexico to pay us what she owes us? or how is she otherwise to indemnify us for the loss of blood and treasure which we have already suffered, and which we may yet suffer in prosecuting the present war? And thus early the North steps in, and tells us of the South "we are not opposed to the acquisition of territory from Mexico, but we are opposed to its acquisition, unless you permit us, beforehand, to obtain that it shall forever be precluded from becoming any portion of it, slaveholding territory." In the first place, we think that this is the wrong time to agitate such a question, even if it were a proper one. For we are in the midst of a foreign war, and the clogging the appropriations for carrying on or settling it with such a *verba quæstio* is highly impolitic, and we may add, unpatriotic. But we utterly deny the right of the North to introduce such a question into the legislation of Congress. If any territory is acquired on our Southern frontier, we say that the men who may people that territory are the only persons who ought to decide the question of "slaveholding" or "non-slaveholding State." But, at any rate, if the fanaticism of the Northern States will force this issue on the South, let it come up on the Record properly and regularly. Let the territory be acquired, and then, at any future period, should any portion of that territory form itself into a State, and ask admission into the Union, then let the question come up on its merits. For one, we are ready to meet it. We are of opinion that it must, one day, come to a point, and we think that the sooner the better for the South. If the North is disposed to violate, in its mad fanaticism, the compromises of the Constitution, we, for one, are ready to meet the crisis. But we cannot refrain from denouncing the unfair and ungenerous method which that section of the Union has thought proper to adopt in dragging the question before Congress at this unpromising hour. We call upon the whole Southern Press to be upon the alert, and prepare for the day of action, for we fear that it is fast approaching. Let us at least be united on this question.

SMITHSON.

Our readers will notice that a good deal has been said recently in the papers, particularly during the last session of the present Congress, about the Smithsonian Institute, and about the appointment of Regents for the proper disposition of the Smithsonian fund, &c. Some of them, however, may not know exactly who Smithsonian was, or what this fund is, about which so much has been said. We will inform them in a few words. JAMES SMITHSON, who bequeathed this large fund to the United States, was an English subject, who was born in England, and lived there all his life time. He was connected with some of the most noble and aristocratic families in the Empire. He had never visited the United States, but such was his ardent admiration of our institutions, that he left his large property, amounting to upwards of two millions and a quarter of dollars, for the purpose of founding an institution to be called the "Smithsonian Institute," at the City of Washington, for the diffusion of useful knowledge amongst men. In the year 1836, the United States came in possession of this large sum, and it was only at the last session of Congress, that any steps were taken to carry out the intentions of the liberal donor.

A VERY SMALL BUSINESS.

In the House of Commons, on the 24th ult., a resolution to pay to Col. Wheeler, former Treasurer of the State, some thirty dollars, with which he had over-charged himself on the books of the Treasury, came up for consideration; and this resolution was not only reported favorably upon by the Committee on Claims, but from a certificate furnished by the Comptroller, it appeared to the House that the money was unquestionably due. As soon as the resolution had been read, Mr. Steele, of Richmond, took the floor, and in the course of his remarks suggested the propriety of retaining the amount just mentioned, as part payment of eighty-one dollars, alleged to be due from Colonel Wheeler to the State, on account of the Page affair, which made so much noise at the last session; and we were surprised and

mortified to see Mr. Steele sustained in this movement by the Hon. E. S. Smith, Messrs. Miller, of Davis, and Barnes, of Norfolk, however, took sides against the course of Messrs. Steele and Stanley; and the remarks of these gentlemen were highly creditable to them, especially when we consider that they are political opponents of Colonel Wheeler.

Mr. Wheeler is a fellow of some talents, in support of the action of Messrs. Stanley and Steele, and Mr. Courts, (who was followed by Mr. Wilder on the same side,) being unwilling to listen in silence to the remarks which had been made in relation to a former Treasurer of the State, though he expressed no opinion in the premises, took the floor, and gave a rebuke to Messrs. Baxter, Stanley, and Steele, which they will not soon forget. He told them they had hoped that this matter, with all its unpleasant recollections, had long since been consigned to the tomb of the Capulets; but now what did we see? Honorable gentlemen, consuming the public time, and stirring up the elements of party strife, and all for the purpose of hunting down a vagrant eighty-one dollars—and that, too, when the whole matter had been investigated by the last Legislature, and a great deal of money, and the fact ascertained, and it was paid; but this attempt to clutch in *transitu* a debt supposed to be due from him, was unworthy the State of North Carolina. But Federalism is but a run; and the "smallest favors" out of which